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National Agricultural Statistics Service



California Farm News

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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USDA-NASS TO ASSESS 2008 CALIFORNIA SMALL GRAINS PRODUCTION

SACRAMENTO, August 18, 2008 – Amidst the ongoing concerns over availability of grain supplies for food, fuel, feed and fiber, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will soon measure U.S. farmers' final 2008 production of small grains. Representatives of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be soon be asking critical questions of more than 1,700 California producers as part of the September 2008 Agricultural Survey.

"The September Agricultural Survey is one of the most important annual surveys conducted by NASS," explained Vic Tolomeo, Director, USDA-NASS, California Field Office. "We will be gathering final data on 2008 small grains production, as well as information on quantities of grains and oilseeds stored on farms. Survey results provide the basis for official USDA estimates of acreage, yield and production of harvested acres for the 2008 crop year. California farmers will be provided timely and accurate information to help make critical year-end business decisions and evaluate the success of the growing season," said Tolomeo. "California needs to be fairly represented in a nationwide sample of approximately 65,000 agriculture producers."

Survey participants will be contacted by mail or telephone during the first two weeks of September. They will be asked to provide information on their 2008 production and on-farm stocks. Once compiled and analyzed, the information will be published in a series of USDA reports including the annual *Small Grains* summary and quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on September 30.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by survey respondents is confidential by law (Title 7, U.S. Code). "We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses," Tolomeo reminds producers. "Individual information is combined with other responses and published only as part of State, regional and national summaries. No individual person or operation can be identified."

Visit the NASS web site at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/ to see all NASS reports, as well as a comprehensive collection of other data on U.S. agriculture. Reports and additional information can also be obtained by calling the NASS Hotline at 1-800-727-9540.

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